

MINUTES
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 24, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Syma Ebbin, Len Mediavilla, Michael Murphy, Mark Oefinger, Rita Schmidt, Luke Singh, Zell Steever, John Sutherland

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reviewed the committee's list of invited candidates and their affiliation, and noted that Wes Greenleaf, representing the Board of Education, is retiring in October and is not expected to serve on this committee; Gary Schneider, Public Works Director, was out of town, and Genevieve Cerf was also out of town.

Zell Steever recognized Edith Fairgrieve, a former member of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community, who was in the audience.

Sutherland said the agenda for this meeting did not include election of officers and was not posted on the Town website. Also, this meeting would be considered a special meeting because it is the first meeting for this committee.

Sutherland made a motion to add election officers to the agenda.

Oefinger said that election of officers was intentionally omitted from the agenda, with the intent that this meeting would be strictly for introductions and the exchange of ideas.

The motion did not pass.

Steever suggested that everyone provide a one-page bio in writing to pass on to the other members at the next meeting.

Each member introduced himself and provided a short bio of their background and experience.

II. COMMITTEE ROLE AND MEMBERSHIP

1. Town Council Resolution Establishing Committee

Oefinger gave a brief overview of the resolution.

2. Review of Draft List of Committee Responsibilities

Oefinger briefly reviewed the committee responsibilities and said the Town Council viewed energy efficiency as the more immediate need and focus of this committee.

III. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS AND ONGOING STUDY EFFORTS AND REPORTS

1. Town of Groton Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Norris reviewed the EECBG (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant) grant application and the projects that were completed with the grant, including the greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The final project, an energy efficiency action plan, is in progress.

2. Final Report of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community to the Groton Town Council

The final report of the task force was included in the agenda packets for the committee members to review. Mr. Steever, former chairman of the task force provided background.

3. Scope of Services for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Action Plan

Murphy reviewed the consultant's progress with the action plan. The report is expected to be completed by the end of September, and staff expects to have the consultant present their report to the Town Council and various boards and commissions later in October.

Norris briefly discussed the background of the strategy submitted with the EECBG application.

4. Scope of Services from Plan of Conservation and Development Update Regarding Energy and Sustainability Theme

Murphy reviewed the POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) project. The Coastal Municipal Program will also be updated.

Ebbin felt it would be useful for this committee to interact with the POCD process. Murphy said Milone and MacBroom, the POCD consultant, is scheduled to meet with the Steering Committee on October 18th from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. The meetings are a workshop for the committee, but the public is certainly invited. Murphy noted that sustainability related work product would certainly be referred to the committee for review and comments.

Schmidt felt the committee should wait for the consultant's draft report and review it, and then determine where the committee should focus. Oefinger said one of the roles of this committee should be to invite the corporate community to participate.

IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

It was unanimously decided that regular meetings of the committee would be held on the second Monday of each month, at 4:30 p.m. Staff will poll the members who were not at this meeting to be sure that time would be convenient for them.

Oefinger confirmed that the Town Council resolution established this as a committee. Sutherland said he would be unable to participate as he is not an elector of the Town, as required by Town Charter.

Staff will confirm the two meeting dates (POCD Steering Committee, and the consultant's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Action Plan special presentation to the Town. The rest of the committee who were not in attendance will be polled regarding the date and time chosen for the committee's monthly meetings. Oefinger said he would invite the Town Clerk to the next meeting to get everyone sworn in, or members can stop in at the Town Clerk's office during the week to be sworn in.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.